(c) and (d) These are major acquisition proposals involving substantial expenditure and therefore all technical and commercial aspects have to be examined carefully.

(e) Indian Air Force has been using MIG-21 FL fighter aircrafts for advanced jet training of fighter pilots.

(f) The Government is keen on early finalisation of procurement of AJT.

Purchase of Auto Pilot System

4817. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU :
SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for delay in purchasing auto pilot system;

(b) whether the Appraisal Committee has submitted its report on Jaguar Upgradation Programme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps that have been taken or are being taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) A contract was concluded for procurement of a suitable Auto Pilot System in 1999. This contract could not be implemented in practical terms due to the non-availability of adequate space for the Auto Pilot Electronic Unit (APEU) in the aircraft. Suitable reconfiguration and certification by the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) was required for the installation of the APEU. This issue has been resolved. Integration work on the programme has already commenced.

(b) and (c) there is no Appraisal Committee. However, the Price Negotiation Committee has completed its negotiation with M/s. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the Jaguar Upgradation programme. Government have approved the Upgradation programme by HAL and the contract is likely to be signed shortly with HAL.

Deployment of Missiles

†4818. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India has not deployed any of its missiles so far despite development of missiles like Agni etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when such missiles are likely to be deployed ?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi